

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 11299

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI, SHUM
SUBJECT: A FUNERAL, A POLITICAL MEETING AND M.D. YUSUFU

REF: LAGOS 10995

1. EMBASSY POLITICAL/LABOR ASSISTANT WAS PRESENT AT FUNERAL OF PA ODUNTAN AT OGBOMOSHO, OYO STATE, ON SEPTEMBER 9. ODUNTAN WAS THE FATHER OF S.A. ODUNTAN WHO WORKED FOR M.D. YUSUFU IN THE POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH. THE BURIAL SERVICE WAS ATTENDED BY YUSUFU AS WELL AS BY A NUMBER OF ANTI-AWOLOWO YORUBA CIVILIAN POLITICIANS INCLUDING OLU AWOTESU, MRS. FADERARA AKINTOLA (THE WIFE OF CHIEF S.L. AKINTOLA), CHIEF ALANI BANKOLE (A PROMINENT OGBOMOSHO BUSINESSMAN), CHIEF G.B. AKIN-DEKO, CHIEF RICHARD AKINJIDE, AND A NUMBER OF OYO STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILORS.

2. BEFORE THE SERVICES, THE EMBASSY ASSISTANT SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH YUSUFU WHO SAID THAT THE TOP MEMBERS OF THE SMC WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE NEXT YEAR. YUSUFU SAID JOKINGLY, "WE WILL BE LEAVING ALL OF YOU PEOPLE IN 1979." IN PARTICULAR, YUSUFU SAID HE HIMSELF, OBASANJO, YAR'ADUA, DANJUMA, ADELANWA, AND YISA DOKO WOULD ALL BE RETIRING ON
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3. AFTER THE FUNERAL, THE POLITICIANS TRANSFORMED THE GATHERING INTO A POLITICAL MEETING AT THE OGBOMOSHO TOWN HALL. AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR, YUSUFU DROVE UP WITH SEVERAL POLICEMEN, WARNED THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THE MEETING WAS ILLEGAL, AND ORDERED THEM TO DISPERSE.

SOON AFTER YUSUFU LEFT, THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED AT MRS. AKINTOLA'S RESIDENCE.

4. IN THE COURSE OF THE SESSION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT CHIEF AWOLOWO'S OPPONENTS IN YORUBALAND SHOULD ORGANIZE THEMSELVES UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHIEF AKINJIDE IN OYO STATE, OLU AWOTESU IN OGUN STAMU, AND CHIEF AKIN-DEKO IN ONDO STATE. MONEY WOULD BE COLLECTED AND APPROPRIATE CANDIDATES WOULD BE SUPPORTED. ACCORDING TO OUR LABOR/POLITICAL ASSISTNANT, THE MEETING AGREED THAT DR. IBRAHIM DATTI AHMED (WHO ATTENDED THE SESSION) WOULD BE A BETTER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATDFTO RUN AGAINST CHIEF AWOLOWO THAN ANY OTHER NORTHERN POLITICIANS INCLUDING INUWA WADA OR ADAMU CIROMA.

5. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHO IS DOING WHAT TO WHOM THESE DAYS IN YORUBALAND. AKINJIDE AND AKIN-DEKO HAVE BOTH BEEN LISTED AS NATIONAL MOVEMENT SUPPORTERS (REFTEL) WHILE AWOTESU HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH CLUB 19. SO IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOMEBODY HAD MERGED WITH SOMEBODY. SECONDLY, IT IS CURIOUS TO FIND THE UBIQUITOUS DATTI AHMED OF LIBYAN CONNECTION FAME TURNING UP IN OGBOMOSHO TO BE DISCUSSED AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BY ANTI AWOLOWO YORUBAS. EASUM

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